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Executive Registry

LS-4231/6

3 December 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Coordinator
Lyndon B. Johnson Library Project

SUBJECT: Reports to the President's Foreign
Intelligence Advisory Board

1. In accordance with our conversations, we can make available to you the Executive Registry copies of the annual CIA reports to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board for the fiscal years 1964 through 1969. These can be retained in the special storage area.
2. We have in the NIPE files 13 semiannual reports to the Board covering the period from November 1956 to March 1963. We have only our file copies of these so they will have to be reproduced. These average something like 65 pages each. Of course some of these are applicable to the Eisenhower rather than the Johnson project.
3. In addition, we have file copies of annual reports to the PFIAB on the DCI's coordination of the intelligence community. These are for fiscal years 1964 through 1968 and average about 20 pages. These too are available for reproduction.
4. I am attaching a paper on general considerations affecting these reports.

(Signed) Thomas A. Parrott

Thomas A. Parrott
AD/DCI/NIPE

Attachment

cc: DD/P for C/CA

NIPE:TAP:dm

Original and 1 - Addressee

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1 - NIPE/TAP

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Reports to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

1. Beginning in 1956 the CIA began making semiannual reports covering all Agency activities to the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities (later constituted as the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board). There are 13 such reports. Beginning in fiscal year 1964, the reporting cycle was changed to an annual one and five such reports have been made to date.

2. These reports contain an exposition of everything of significance that the Agency has done. They cover the entire spectrum of CIA activities, including highlights of clandestine intelligence reporting, covert action, advanced reconnaissance, research and development, etc., etc. Some of the topics covered in the reports are extremely sensitive at this time but the sensitivity may turn out to be of short duration. For example, details of reconnaissance devices and of research and development projects which are highly secret now may turn out to be ludicrously outdated in a short number of years, and would not require long-range protection. On the other hand, others such as FI and CA reporting, particularly the latter, may well retain their sensitivity for a long time to come. These reports are indivisible within themselves and therefore we will have to be governed by the most restrictive criteria established for any particular sections of them. I note that the Chief of the Covert Action Staff says that it is impossible to predict when if ever it would be in the national interest to disclose details of some of the CA operations. I agree with this fully and would concur in his statement that decisions to release such information would have to be made on an individual basis by the then DCI or successor, in the light of conditions obtaining in the future. Therefore, as noted above, these semiannual and annual reports in their entirety would have to be subject to the same kind of handling.

3. The coordination reports are considerably less sensitive. I think these could carry a time limit of perhaps 25 years, with the stipulation that after that time decisions to make their content available would be made by the then responsible authority (DCI or successor) in the light of current conditions.

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